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Sexual dysfunction is associated with suicidal ideation in female service members and veterans

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Abstract

Background. Suicide is a leading cause of premature death among military service members/veterans (SM/Vs). The Interpersonal Theory of Suicide (Joiner, 2007) proposes that higher thwarted belonging, perceived burdensomeness, and acquired capability confer increased risk for suicide. However, no studies have examined the association of sexual dysfunction, a possible component of thwarted belonging and perceived burdensomeness, with suicidal ideation. The present study explored whether sexual dysfunction was associated with suicidal ideation when accounting for mental health, demographic, and military characteristics among female SM/Vs. *Method.* Female SM/Vs ($n=710$) completed an anonymous online survey assessing demographics, mental health, military characteristics, sexual dysfunction, and suicidal

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